

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
L-03 H-01 /067 W
-----021412Z 035886 /44

R 021153Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4529
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1849

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SRF, PFOR, SU
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN SUDAN

REF: (A) STATE 123490 (NOTAL), (B) KHARTOUM 1693 (NOTAL),
(C) KHARTOUM 700

SUMMARY: DIRECTOR UNHCR OFFICE HERE CLAIMS THAT TOTAL
NUMBER ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN SUDAN REMAINS AT 115,000
OR SLIGHTLY MORE. OF THESE ABOUT 105,000 ARE
ERITREANS. ALTHOUGH ADDITIONAL INFLUX HAD BEEN EXPECT-
ED, THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE
ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES SINCE FEBRUARY. NEVERTHELESS,
UNHCR STILL CONCERNED THAT NEW WAVE OF REFUGEES MAY
RESULT FROM CURRENT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA.
REFERENCE BY SENIOR OFFICIALS TO 250,000 REFUGEES
APPEARS DUE TO THEIR INCLUDING ALL ETHIOPIANS IN SUDAN
UNDER REFUGEE RUBRIC AND PURPOSE, MOST LIKELY, IS
TO DRAMATIZE ISSUE. UNHCR HAS BEGUN MAJOR SETTLEMENT
PROGRAM AND EXPECTS SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND BUDGET IN
FY-78. END SUMMARY

1. DISCUSSED REFUGEE SITUATION JUNE 2 WITH ANTHONY
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KOZLOWSKI, AMCIT DIRECTOR UNHCR OFFICE HERE. SOME
CONFUSION EXISTS BETWEEN NUMBER REFUGEES AS
TRADITIONALLY DEFINED BY UNHCR AND OTHERS AND
ETHIOPIANS IN GENERAL. AS NOTED REF A, WE REPORTED
IN EARLY MARCH (REF C) THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 115,000
ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN SUDAN AND OF THESE ABOUT
105,000 WERE ERITREANS. SINCE THEN, FONMIN MANSOUR

KHALED HAS STATED THAT THERE SOME 250,000 ETHIOPIANS IN COUNTRY, AND HE HAS SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL REFUGEES WERE FLOWING IN. OUR REMARKS IN PARA 7 REF B WERE BASED ON THESE STATEMENTS BY FONMIN.

2. IN OUR CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, KOZLOWSKI REAFFIRMED FIGURES REPORTED LAST MARCH AND ALSO SAID THAT EXPECTED LARGE INFLUX ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES HAS SO FAR FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. HE SAID SOME 600 ERITREANS ENTERED SUDAN IN LAST SEVERAL WEEKS FOLLOWING FALL OF TESSENNEE. ABOUT 4,000 NON-ERITREAN ETHIOPIANS ENTERED SUDAN IN LATE 76/JANUARY 77. ALL ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES ARE IN EASTERN SUDAN EXCEPT FOR 18 ANEWAK TRIBESMEN WHO FOUND THEIR WAY TO MALAKAL, UPPER NILE PROVINCE LAST YEAR. THUS, THERE NOW BETWEEN 115,000 AND 120,000 ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN SUDAN OF WHICH ABOUT 105,000 ARE ERITREANS.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1849

3. KOZLOWSKI WAS AWARE OF KHALED'S PUBLIC REFERENCE TO OVER 200,000 REFUGEES, AND HE ALSO NOTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS INCLUDING NIMEIRI TO PRESENCE OF 40,000 NON-ERITREAN ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES HERE. HOWEVER, HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SEE KHALED AND NO RPT NO OTHER SUDANGOV OFFICIAL HAS BEEN ABLE EXPLAIN HOW LARGER NUMBERS WERE DETERMINED. KOZLOWSKI NOTED THAT IN RECENT REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, MINHEALTH REFERRED TO LOWER UNHCR FIGURE. KOZLOWSKI CONCLUDES THAT KHALED IS REFERRING TO ALL ETHIOPIANS IN SUDAN AND

THAT HIS PURPOSE IS POLITICAL, I.E., TO DRAMATIZE
SUDAN'S PROBLEMS WITH ETHIOPIA.

4. RE UNHCR ACTIVITIES, KOZLOWSKI TOLD ME \$1 MILLION
IN FY-77 FUNDS AND ANOTHER \$1 MILLION IN FUNDS
LEFT OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEARS HAS BEEN COMMITTED.
REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE FOR \$2.7 MILLION IN FY-78
FOR SETTLEMENT ALONE. IN ADDITION, CLOSE TO \$1 MILLION
WILL BE NEEDED FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES,
COUNSELING SERVICES AND OTHER PROGRAMS. KOZLOWSKI
OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS LULL IN ACTIVITY IN
1975/76 AS UNHCR AND SUDANGOV REVIEWED PROGRAMS,
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BUT SINCE LATE LAST YEAR SOME 7,000 REFUGEES
HAVE BEEN SETTLED AS FARMERS IN EASTERN SUDAN.
AFTER SUMMER RAINS ANOTHER 30,000 ARE TO BE
SETTLED.

5. IN COMMENTING ON REFUGEE SITUATION KOZLOWSKI
NOTED SOME ERITREANS, NOTABLY BANI AMIR TRIBESMEN
TRADITIONALLY STRADDLE BORDER, BUT HE DOUBTS THEY
COMPRISE SIGNIFICANT PORTION REFUGEE TOTAL.
HE SAID UNHCR AND SUDANGOV CONTINUE ANTICIPATE
ADDITIONAL INFLUX ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES ON BASIS
INFORMATION THAT MAJOR ETHIOPIAN CAMPAIGN TO RETAKE
METEMMA AND HUMERA ABOUT TO OCCUR. HE AGREED
SUDANGOV RESOURCES STRAINED IN HANDLING REFUGEE
PROBLEM, BUT IT HIS OPINION PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY
SUDANESE OFFICIALS GREATLY EXAGGERATE PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: WE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT
THERE HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANT INFLOW
FROM ETHIOPIA IN LAST FEW MONTHS, BUT KOZLOWSKI
IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS INFO IS CORRECT. WE TEND
AGREE THAT KHALED PROBABLY REFERRING TO ALL
ETHIOPIANS IN COUNTRY AND NOT MAKING DISTINCTION
BETWEEN TRUE REFUGEES AND OTHERS WHO EITHER
HAVE BEEN IN SUDAN FOR MANY YEARS OR WHO CAME HERE
FOR ECONOMIC RATHER THAN POLITICAL REASONS. WE
ALSO AGREE THAT TOP SUDANESE OFFICIALS USING REFUGEE
PROBLEM TO DRAMATIZE GENERAL ETHIOPIAN SITUATION.
IN MEETINGS OVER NEXT WEEK OR SO WITH SUDANGOV
OFFICIALS WE SHALL TRY TO OBTAIN MORE INFO, BUT
BELIEVE DATA PROVIDED BY KOZLOWSKI IS AS
ACCURATE AS IS AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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